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THE WHITE HOUSE

O/CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

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Office of the Press Secretary  
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

August 27, 1986

FACT SHEET**OMNIBUS DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 1986**

The President signed today H.R. 4151 which authorizes \$2.44 billion for the Department of State to fulfill its security-related responsibilities.

In December 1985, following the recommendations of the Inman panel, the Administration transmitted to Congress an enhanced diplomatic security proposal that was intended to address the well-documented problems with security in United States embassies and missions abroad. This five-year proposal provides for construction or reconstruction of embassies and consulates at posts overseas, and for increases in security staff, communications, and other equipment.

The bill signed today:

-- Authorizes \$2.1 billion for construction for the five year period 1986-1990. The bill also authorizes appropriations of \$328 million for 1986 and 1987 for salaries and expenses, counterterrorism research and development, and anti-terrorism assistance.

-- Contains provisions to combat international terrorism. It authorizes the payment of rewards for information leading to the arrest or frustration of terrorists or narcoterrorists; authorizes a counterterrorism protection fund; prohibits the export of munitions to countries supporting terrorism, unless there is a Presidential waiver on national interest grounds, imposes controls on certain terrorism-related services and requires that persons providing these services be licensed.

-- Deals with multilateral cooperation to combat international terrorism. It directs the President to seek the establishment of an International Antiterrorism Committee; urges the President to seek negotiation of international agreements on sharing passport and visa information; urges the President to instruct our Ambassador to the United Nations (U.N.) to seek the adoption of a U.N. resolution condemning the use of diplomatic privileges and immunities for terrorist purposes; and requires the President to submit a report to the Congress, within six months of enactment, on the steps taken to carry out the above provisions.

-- Authorizes the Victims of Terrorism Compensation Act, which provides permanent authority for the payment of medical, educational, cash benefits, and other compensation to Government employees, including members of the Uniformed Services, and members of their families who are victims of terrorism. Two separate cash payments are authorized for captives: (1) a cash payment of \$50 for each day of captivity for individuals held in a captive status from the period beginning on or after November 4, 1979, and ending on or before January 21, 1981 (this covers the Iranian hostages) and (2) for all captives held after January 21, 1981, cash payments of not less than one-half of the amount of the worldwide average per diem rate in effect for each day the captive is held.

-- Includes a sense of the Congress provision that the President should establish a process to encourage the negotiation of an international convention to prevent and control international terrorism.

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law H.R. 4151, the "Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986." This marks yet another step forward in our bipartisan effort to eradicate international terrorism. I would like to recognize the valuable contributions to this legislation by the Vice President and his Task Force on Combatting Terrorism; Secretary Shultz and Admiral Inman and their Panel on Diplomatic Security, and the work of Senator Richard Lugar and Representatives Dante Fascell, Bill Broomfield, Dan Mica, and Olympia Snowe, as well as many other distinguished members of the Congress, for bringing the various parts of this Act together. This is truly a bipartisan piece of work.

This Act once again puts those who would instigate acts of terrorism against U.S. citizens or property on notice that we will not be deterred from carrying out our obligations throughout the world. I am committed to ensuring the safety of our diplomats, servicemen, and citizens wherever they may be. This historic Act provides the organization and authorities necessary to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Panel on Overseas Security. It also establishes within the Department of State a new Bureau of Diplomatic Security and a Diplomatic Security Service to increase the professionalism and effectiveness of our security personnel. Another important piece of this Act that I am particularly pleased to have supported is the victims of terrorism assistance program. This for the first time will provide for the care and welfare of the victims of terrorism and their families.

At the same time, I continue to urge cooperation with all nations, on both a bilateral and multilateral basis, to seek ways to work together to end the continuing onslaught of international terrorism against civilized society. Seeking international cooperation is vital in the struggle against terrorism, and that effort will remain a top foreign policy priority for me. Within the government, cooperation and coordination between all departments and agencies is also essential in protecting our vital national security interests from the terrorist threat.

We can never legislate an end to terrorism. However, we must remain resolute in our commitment to confront this criminal behavior in every way -- diplomatically, economically, legally, and when necessary, militarily. First rate intelligence remains the key element in each of these areas. We will continue to improve our ability to predict, prevent, and respond to threats of terrorism with an expanded intelligence-gathering capability.

We will continue to work with the Congress to identify legislative gaps in our ability to combat terrorism. This Act adds to our capabilities and further demonstrates our resolve. I congratulate those responsible for this historic Act.

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